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# Sixth Committee

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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 9 October 2003, at 10 a.m.

*Chairman:* Mr. Baja ..... (Philippines)

## Contents

Agenda item 155: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

Agenda item 148: Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order

Agenda item 159: Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly

Agenda item 162: Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Community in the General Assembly

Agenda item 163: Observer status for the GUUAM in the General Assembly

Agenda item 164: Observer status for the East African Community in the General Assembly

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*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 155: Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization**
(A/58/33, A/58/346 and A/58/347)

1. **Mr. Nesi** (Italy), speaking as Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, and introducing the report on its 2003 session (A/58/33), recalled that in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 5 of General Assembly resolution 57/24, the Special Committee was requested to continue its consideration of all proposals concerning the question of the maintenance of international peace and security in all its aspects; to continue to consider, on a priority basis, the question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter; to keep on its agenda the question of the peaceful settlement of disputes between States; to continue to consider proposals concerning the Trusteeship Council; to continue to consider, on a priority basis, ways and means of improving its working methods and enhancing its efficiency; and to continue to identify new subjects for consideration in its future work.

2. The report consisted of seven chapters, the first of which listed all items and proposals considered by the Special Committee; its recommendations to the General Assembly could be found in chapter II. Chapter III, relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, contained several items considered by the Special Committee. It had considered on a priority basis the implementation of the Charter provisions related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, as well as the revised working paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled "Declaration on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation". That section was followed by a summary of the general discussion on the revised working paper submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the strengthening of certain principles concerning the impact and application of sanctions and the working paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled "Fundamentals of the legal basis for United Nations peacekeeping operations in the context of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations". The Committee had also considered the working papers submitted by Cuba in 1997 and 1998, entitled "Strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness", and the revised proposal submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on strengthening the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. The final section of chapter III summarized discussion of the revised working paper submitted by Belarus and the Russian Federation concerning a request for an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice. Chapter IV of the report was entitled "Peaceful settlement of disputes"; no proposal had been submitted to the Special Committee for consideration in that regard at the 2003 session. The Special Committee's consideration of proposals concerning the Trusteeship Council was summarized in chapter V, while discussions on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* were summarized in chapter VI. Lastly, chapter VII addressed the question of improving the working methods of the Special Committee, the identification of new subjects and improvement of coordination between the Special Committee and other United Nations bodies. With respect to the issue of improving its working methods, the Special Committee had considered a revised working paper submitted by the delegations of Japan and the Republic of Korea.

3. **Ms. Ramos Rodriguez** (Cuba), noting references during the general debate in the General Assembly to the urgent need to reform the United Nations, said that the Special Committee should play a central role in that process through an in-depth study of the comments and proposals made by States concerning the strengthening of the role of the Organization. There was a need for real reform and for a far-reaching process to democratize the Organization's main bodies, including strengthening the role of the General Assembly in its capacity as the Organization's main body for discussion, adoption of policies and representation. That reform process must guarantee real respect for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law and should lead to revitalization of the collective security mechanisms established in the Charter. Reforms should also be aimed at guaranteeing the Organization's capacity to preserve peace and lead the fight for general and complete disarmament,

including nuclear disarmament, guaranteeing the right to disarmament and making international cooperation a reality.

4. Furthermore, a permanent solution must be found to the problem of implementation of the provisions of the Charter relating to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions, an issue which was linked to reform of the working method of the Security Council and an increase in its membership. The imposition of sanctions constituted an extreme measure which should only be applied in the face of threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression, following the exhaustion of all means for the pacific settlement of disputes provided for in Chapter VI of the Charter; there should also be a detailed analysis of the economic, social and humanitarian effects, both short- and long-term, of such sanctions. As established in the Charter, the Security Council acted on behalf of all Member States, which was why the application of sanctions against a Member State must be a collective decision or at least be understood and approved by the other Member States. The imposition and application of sanctions should not constitute a second privilege added to that of the veto, nor should it be an instrument of coercion in the hands of a few permanent members of the Security Council. The decision-making process in the Council with regard to sanctions must therefore be democratized and its decisions should truly represent the collective will of the Organization. Although the developing countries as a whole were underrepresented in the Security Council, the sanctions regimes applied to date had all been against countries in the developing world, with nearly 70 per cent of current regimes imposed on African countries.

5. Sanctions regimes should have clear objectives and well-defined mandates with a view to being revised or suspended or lifted fully once the stated objectives had been achieved. Furthermore, any attempt to use sanctions to partially or completely change the political or legal system of a country or to resolve international disputes was illegal and constituted a violation of international law. Sanctions regimes must contain specific and adequate measures to ensure that the affected population was provided with all necessary humanitarian assistance and was not deprived of its right to life, food and health and that the latter was not negatively affected. Sanctions regimes should also be periodically reviewed and adjusted in accordance with the humanitarian situation existing in the sanctioned State. There should also be a substantial reform of the working method of the Security Council sanctions committees, which suffered from the same distortions evident in the decisions and procedures of the Council, including lack of transparency.

6. In order for sanctions to be an effective and fair mechanism, there must be a real and dynamic interrelationship between the General Assembly and the Security Council, and the Assembly must play the role envisioned in the Charter with regard to issues of international peace and security. The Assembly must participate actively in the adoption of decisions on the application of sanctions against a Member State and, subsequently, in the follow-up to the application of sanctions. In that regard, she recalled that the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, which constituted the greater part of the Members of the United Nations, had over the years repeatedly put forward a wide-ranging set of proposals, contained in many documents and statements, on the application of sanctions, with the full support of her delegation.

7. **Ms. Cavaliere de Nava** (Venezuela) recalled that during the general debate in the General Assembly, reference had been made to the need for the United Nations to adapt to changes in the international system and to the fact that, in order to adapt, it was essential for the Organization itself to adopt a series of reforms which would make it vital and effective and endow it with the necessary capacity to face those challenges. Great things were expected of the efforts being undertaken in various forums of the United Nations in that regard and the Special Committee was no exception, judging by its tireless work in considering, among others, proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security.

8. The issue of assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions was an important one and was an integral part of another important and decisive issue for the future of the United Nations, namely, reform of the Organization's sanctions regime, which must be oriented towards streamlined objectives and timetables. General Assembly resolution 57/25 stressed the importance of establishing new mechanisms or procedures aimed at third States confronted with special economic problems as a result of the application of sanctions by the Security Council with a view to mitigating the unintended impact of sanctions. In that regard her delegation supported the suggestion

that the Security Council should request the Secretary-General to consider appointing a special representative or dispatching fact-finding missions to third States where economic sanctions had had particularly severe effects. One objective of those missions should be to identify possible ways of assistance to reduce the impact of sanctions on the population. In addition, the work of the informal working group of the Security Council established in 2000 should be accelerated with a view to developing general recommendations on reducing the unintended impact of sanctions and on assistance to States affected by the application of sanctions.

9. With regard to the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, which was the very foundation for the maintenance of international peace and security, a dispute settlement mechanism should be established which would be able to offer its services in the initial stages of disputes. That would be in keeping with the idea that the strengthening of mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes would reduce the number of cases in which the Security Council would be obliged to impose sanctions on third States, and thereby likewise reduce the undesirable consequences sanctions implied for their populations.

10. **Mr. Gandhi** (India) said that economic embargoes and trade sanctions had caused great hardships to third States and their people, in particular to the developing countries. The Security Council had the primary responsibility in the imposition of sanctions and must assess their possible effects prior to their imposition. In that connection, the Council must act fairly and equitably and apply a clear and coherent methodology for the imposition, application and lifting of sanctions. In addition, sanctions should be clearly defined and targeted, imposed for a specific time frame, subject to periodic review and lifted as soon as the reason for their imposition had ceased to exist. Effective measures must be taken to minimize the adverse effects of sanctions, such as the provision of adequate and timely assistance on the basis of an assessment of humanitarian conditions in the affected third States. The Council should consider establishing a fund financed from assessed contributions based on the scale applicable to peacekeeping operations as well as from voluntary contributions. It would therefore be advisable to establish a Sixth Committee working group on the question of sanctions and their impact on third States.

11. With regard to the proposals relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, India took the view that the proposal put forward by the Russian Federation provided a useful basis for further consideration of the topic. However, the need to develop a universal consensus on the core issues addressed in the proposal could not be overemphasized. With regard to the discussions on the proposal put forward by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, India considered that the Charter of the United Nations defined the precise manner and circumstances in which sanctions or other coercive measures could be imposed. With regard to the proposal to confer on the targeted State the right to seek and obtain just compensation for any unlawful damage sustained by it on account of illegal or excessive sanctions, India wished to reiterate its view that conferring such a right would call into question the very legality of the sanctions imposed. With regard to the proposal put forward by the Russian Federation on peacekeeping operations in the context of Chapter VI of the Charter, India considered that the political and operational aspects of peacekeeping should be addressed by other specialized committees and that the Special Committee could contribute only from a legal angle. With respect to the proposal put forward by Cuba on strengthening the role of the Organization, India reiterated its commitment to the strengthening of the United Nations and the enhancement of its effectiveness and was willing to consider any forward-looking suggestions as long as they did not lead to duplication of work or involve a review of the basic structure of the Charter. India welcomed with satisfaction the adoption of General Assembly resolution 57/26 on the prevention and peaceful settlement of disputes and hoped that it would be useful in that field. India attached great importance to the principle of free choice of means of dispute settlement and took the view that any recourse to a dispute settlement mechanism required, first and foremost, the consent of the parties to the dispute.

12. With regard to the proposal on the Trusteeship Council, India considered that it was currently inappropriate to envisage a role for the Trusteeship Council in dealing with issues relating to the common heritage of mankind, since that area had been covered adequately by a number of existing international instruments. In any event, any decision on the functions of the Trusteeship Council would have to be adopted on the basis of consensus. The ideas outlined in the proposal put forward by Japan and the Republic

of Korea were useful, although India was not in favour of changing certain well-established practices of the Sixth Committee, including its decision-making procedure, at the time. With regard to the identification of new subjects, India took the view that the Committee should first deal with the proposals before it.

13. **Mr. Nesi** (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries (Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) and the associated countries (Bulgaria and Romania) and referring to the issue of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the imposition of sanctions, reaffirmed that, while mandatory sanctions adopted by the Security Council could be an effective tool against a State, an entity or a group of individuals, the impact of sanctions on civilian populations and third countries and the need to minimize their negative consequences should be borne in mind. In that context, the Security Council's practice of imposing targeted sanctions subject to regular review constituted an important achievement that reflected the substance of relevant recommendations from outside the framework of the United Nations. An important document in that regard was the Secretary-General's report entitled "Implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions" (A/53/312). The European Union wished to stress that there had been a number of recent developments concerning the effectiveness of sanctions both within and outside the Union that should be taken into consideration when examining the issue. It reaffirmed its support for the efforts of the Security Council to improve and streamline the working procedures of its sanctions committees and to facilitate access to those committees by affected States. It also took the view that the work done by the Security Council Working Group on Sanctions was important. The European Union welcomed with satisfaction the revised text of the draft declaration on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions. However, the Special Committee should avoid becoming substantially involved in matters that were handled in other forums in order to avoid duplication of work.

14. With regard to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, the European Union welcomed the recommendations of the Special Committee contained in document A/58/33, in particular, those relating to exploring options involving cooperation with academic institutions, as well as the Secretary-General's report (A/58/347). It also commended the Secretary-General for having facilitated online access to the *Repertory* and the *Repertoire*.

15. The European Union wished to emphasize that, although some results had been achieved in respect of the working methods of the Special Committee, their minimal nature confirmed the difficulties encountered in revitalizing it. Once again, the Special Committee was split between those who believed that rationalizing its working methods could lead to its revitalization and those who feared that any change in those working methods could be a prelude to the watering down of the Special Committee's work. The European Union had always been in favour of a substantive revision of the working methods of the Committee, because only by eliminating the duplication of work and streamlining that work could the Committee hope to be relevant in the future. Regrettably, during the most recent session of the Special Committee, the fears of those who wished to maintain the status quo had come to the forefront, thereby impeding progress not only on the topic of the Committee's working methods but also on that of its future.

16. **Mr. Lacanilao** (Philippines) said that the Special Committee had had its triumphs, inter alia, the conclusion of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes. The Special Committee should streamline its work, increase its efficiency and avoid, as far as possible, the duplication of work done by other United Nations bodies. While fully committed to the principle of allowing any delegation to put forward initiatives, he supported the practical and technical proposals that had been made to enhance the efficiency of the Special Committee. In general, in order to streamline the Special Committee's work, proposals should be made only if they were clearly within its mandate and, as a precautionary measure, consultations with the Secretariat concerning the possible duplication of work of other United Nations organs should take place before the submission of any proposal to the Special Committee. He hoped that the Special Committee and the Sixth Committee would achieve consensus so that those practical

proposals to make the Committee's work more dynamic, relevant and effective could be implemented immediately.

17. With regard to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, the Philippines welcomed the fact that the backlog in the publication of the *Repertory* and the Supplements to the *Repertoire* was being reduced and that a web site had been set up for the *Repertory* that provided access to completed studies which were awaiting printing. Those measures had resolved the problems associated with publication delays, given the existing funding constraints. The Sixth Committee should encourage the Secretariat not only to continue with that initiative but to further enhance it. He had also taken note of the various measures considered by the Interdepartmental Committee for the effective preparation and publication of the *Repertory*, in particular the parallel approach to its preparation, the immediate implementation of which the Philippines supported unreservedly. It was extremely surprising that a decision had been taken to discontinue funding for the *Repertory* when the Special Committee had clearly expressed to the Secretary-General its desire to proceed with elimination of the backlog. In the light of the Special Committee's broad support for continued publication of the *Repertory*, the Philippines recommended that the Sixth Committee should make it clear to the Fifth Committee that sufficient funds for the biennium 2004-2005 should be earmarked for the preparation and publication of the *Repertory*.

18. **Mr. Lavalle-Valdés** (Guatemala) said that the raison d'être and chief function of a subsidiary body of the General Assembly was normally to submit recommendations to the Assembly. It was therefore reasonable, in evaluating the work of the Special Committee, to apply the yardstick of the usefulness of its recommendations. Since 1995 those recommendations had not, by and large, translated into significant advances. Not that the Special Committee's debates as summarized in its report were totally devoid of substance. They contained some rather interesting and pertinent observations, along with some mistaken ideas and commonplaces. It was fair to ask whether that was sufficient to justify the existence of the Special Committee, since its work in recent years did not appear to have contributed substantially to the strengthening of the role of the Organization. The resolutions that the Assembly had adopted year after year in connection with the Special Committee's report would lead one to suppose, at first glance, that its work was fruitful. However, a closer look at the resolutions showed that little progress had been made as a result of them.

19. In the report of the Special Committee, his delegation would like to highlight the recommendation concerning the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, which it hoped would have positive results. It wished to thank the Secretary-General for the work accomplished in that area and noted in particular the electronic publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the significant expansion and enhancement of the relevant Internet site. Guatemala therefore strongly supported the recommendations contained in paragraph 42 of the Secretary-General's report, which it hoped would be adopted by the General Assembly. The Committee's other recommendations, unfortunately, were virtually of no practical significance.

20. With regard to the other issues discussed by the Special Committee, only one, the question of assistance to third States affected by sanctions, was of vital interest. Nevertheless, there was a structural flaw that hampered the work of the Committee, namely, that the report which the General Assembly annually requested from the Secretary-General on the topic was submitted the following year prior to that year's meeting of the Special Committee. Another problem was that the Special Committee did not have access to the information that the Secretary-General was supposed to submit as a follow-up to the note by the President of the Security Council contained in document S/1999/92.

21. In general, his delegation was pessimistic about the future of the Special Committee. Perhaps it could make some truly significant contribution on the question of assistance to third States affected by sanctions, but nothing much of value seemed likely to emerge from the rest of its work. Despite the paragraph-by-paragraph reading of the proposal contained in chapter III, section B, of the Committee's report, it did not appear that the proposal could be adopted by the Special Committee by consensus, with the changes that that would require. With regard to the proposal submitted by Japan, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, although his delegation supported it

unreservedly, it felt that what the Special Committee needed to revitalize its work were new substantive proposals that could potentially be adopted by consensus, and that was not the case with any of the proposals in chapter III of the report, apart from those already mentioned. Chapter IV of the report was completely lacking in content, since no proposals at all had been submitted under that heading. Nor was there any prospect of a positive outcome with regard to the topic in chapter V. The only hope for revitalizing the Special Committee was to submit proposals to it that had a reasonable chance of being adopted by consensus. If such proposals were submitted, there would be no need to improve the Committee's working methods.

22. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) reiterated his delegation's views concerning the imposition of sanctions, which echoed those expressed in the papers submitted by the Russian Federation and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Being extreme measures, sanctions should only be imposed after all peaceful means of settling the dispute or conflict had been exhausted, and then in strict conformity with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law and justice, when the Security Council had determined the existence of a threat to the peace, a breach of the peace or an act of aggression. Moreover, the conditions for lifting the sanctions should be clearly stipulated from the outset, and an objective assessment should be made of their potential short-term and long-term socio-economic and humanitarian consequences. The way that the various sanctions regimes had worked out in practice had shown the hardship that sanctions could inflict not only on the State against which they were directed but also on third States, highlighting the need for special attention to the humanitarian aspects of sanctions. In that regard, Algeria supported the ideas expressed in the paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled "Declaration on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation". Since the objective of sanctions was not to punish innocent people by bringing about severe poverty or destabilizing the economies of target States or third States, it was essential, before imposing sanctions, to assess carefully their possible impact on the civilian population and on third States and to consult with the latter concerning the consequences of possible sanctions for their economies. His delegation would like to see a revised version of the proposal elaborated that would overcome the remaining difficulties.

23. His delegation was also in favour of continuing consideration of the paper submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on the strengthening of certain principles concerning the impact and application of sanctions. In that context, Algeria welcomed the decision of the Security Council on 12 September 2003 to put an end to the sufferings of the Libyan people by adopting resolution 1506 (2003) lifting the sanctions imposed on their country.

24. The weak point of the sanctions system was that the Security Council did not appear to be following any particular rule in deciding when it was appropriate to impose them and therefore gave the impression that it acted according to selective criteria. As it happened, many States flouted international law and ignored resolutions without being criticized or sanctioned in consequence.

25. With regard to third States affected by sanctions, Algeria felt that it was the responsibility of the Security Council to lend them assistance. In its view, Article 50 of the Charter should not be interpreted as merely a procedural provision; the principle of collective responsibility, the key feature of the system of security established in the Charter, should also be reflected in the division of the burdens inherent in the application of sanctions. Consideration should be given to the proposal of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to create a permanent mechanism for concerted action to avoid the negative effects of sanctions and alleviate the difficulties confronting States affected by the application of the measures provided for in Chapter VII of the Charter. In that regard, his delegation welcomed with interest the report of the Secretary-General (A/53/312) containing a summary of the deliberations and main findings of the ad hoc expert group established pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 52/162. Algeria would like the General Assembly to continue to consider the findings of the ad hoc group on the means of implementing the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII and the relevant General Assembly resolutions in that regard.

26. In the light of recent events on the international scene, Algeria believed that there was more than ever a need for the Special Committee to continue to consider

the working paper submitted by Cuba entitled "Strengthening of the role of the Organization and enhancing its effectiveness" and to make its contribution, along with other bodies, to the reform and revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, with the ultimate aim of ensuring that the Assembly, as the principal deliberative, legislative and representative organ of the United Nations, would exercise the functions and powers accorded to it by the Charter.

27. The other key issue in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security was the resort to the use of force without prior authorization by the Security Council except in clear cases of self-defence. In that regard, his delegation endorsed the paper submitted by the Russian Federation and Belarus concerning the possibility of requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice as to the legal consequences of the resort to the use of force by States without prior authorization by the Security Council, except in clear cases of self-defence. The initiative was based on one of most fundamental principles of international law, enshrined in Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter, namely, that Member States should refrain from the threat or use of force. Moreover, the use of force in international relations should be governed by the peremptory norms set forth in the Charter and was acceptable only in the exercise of the right of self-defence provided for in Article 51 of the Charter or following a decision by the Security Council taken under Articles 39 and 42 of the Charter in the event of a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or an act of aggression. His delegation thought that the proposal should be adopted, since the ideas on which it was based were fully in keeping with the principles of international law and the purposes and principles of the Charter, and it was confident that a consensus could be reached that the General Assembly could request an advisory opinion as provided in Article 96, paragraph 1, of the Charter. In view of the increasing recourse in recent years to unilateral military actions not authorized by the Security Council, an advisory opinion would clarify and define the cases in which the use of force was acceptable from the standpoint of international law and would therefore reaffirm the Charter, reinforce the legitimacy of the activities of the United Nations and strengthen the system of collective security, of which the Security Council was the cornerstone.

28. With regard to the paper submitted by the Russian Federation entitled "Fundamentals of the legal basis for United Nations peacekeeping operations in the context of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations", his delegation felt that the Special Committee should focus on the fundamental legal aspects of the matter to avoid duplicating the work of other bodies with responsibility in that area, in particular the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations.

29. With regard to the future role of the Trusteeship Council, opinions differed, so that it would be premature to take a final decision in that regard. In any case, its future role should be considered in the overall context of the reform of the Organization.

30. Lastly, on the subject of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, which were not only valuable sources of information but indispensable tools for the preservation of the institutional memory of the Organization, Algeria requested that those publications, whose reliability was due largely to the fact that the Secretariat itself prepared them, should continue to be brought out regularly. His delegation noted the progress made towards eliminating the backlog in the production of the two publications, endorsed the two-track approach proposed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/58/347) and supported the recommendations of the Special Committee in that regard.

31. **Mr. Ilnytskyi** (Ukraine) said that the Special Committee remained a major forum for consideration of the legal aspects of issues related to the revitalization and reform of the United Nations and that he welcomed the visible progress made on some items on its agenda. His delegation praised the contribution of Japan and the Republic of Korea to the debate on the question of working methods, to which the Special Committee continued to pay particular attention, and encouraged them to continue their efforts; despite the lack of consensus on the draft submitted, it should be recognized that the very consideration of that question had resulted in an improvement in the Special Committee's working methods.

32. It was of the utmost importance for the Security Council to apply a clear, coherent methodology to the imposition, application and lifting of measures under

Chapter VII of the Charter. He recognized the significant improvements made by the Council in that regard in recent years and drew attention to the work of the Security Council Working Group on Sanctions and to the importance of early agreement on its outcome. While recognizing the Council's statutory prerogatives in that area, his delegation in no way underestimated the important role that the General Assembly could play in formulating sanctions regime criteria that had the general support of Member States. His delegation therefore supported continued work on the basis of the documents presented by the Russian Federation on basic conditions and criteria for imposing and implementing sanctions and other enforcement measures and continued discussion of proposals concerning the impact and application of sanctions in order to achieve a fruitful outcome in the near future.

33. The question of the implementation of the provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions remained a priority item on the Special Committee's agenda; it was essential for strengthening the powers and authority of the Security Council and for upholding its overriding responsibilities under the Charter. Practical and timely assistance to such States would further contribute to a more effective, comprehensive approach to sanctions imposed by the Council. His delegation noted the growing consensus within the international community on the importance of the review undertaken by the ad hoc expert group convened by the Secretary-General in 1998 and the proposals elaborated by the distinguished experts. The outcome of the expert group's meetings was instrumental in minimizing the negative effects of Security Council sanctions on non-target States. The views of States and of international organizations and institutions on the expert group's practical proposals were positive and its recommendations seemed acceptable; they were shared by the Secretary-General in his report on the topic.

34. His delegation considered that the report of the expert group, along with the views, ideas and proposals submitted, provided a sufficient basis for reaching agreement on the practical implementation of Article 50 and other provisions of the Charter concerning assistance in the application of sanctions. Therefore, it believed that the Special Committee should continue its work on that agenda item and should undertake an in-depth analysis of the expert group's report. The Sixth Committee might also establish a working group which would provide an appropriate forum for discussion of the issue. Lastly, he welcomed the Special Committee's recommendations on publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*.

35. **Mr. Guan** Jian (China) thanked the Secretary-General for his reports on assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions and on the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council*, and for the measures taken to update both publications. The Special Committee had been discussing proposals concerning sanctions, especially assistance to third States affected by their application, for many years and he hoped that those deliberations would soon come to fruition. His delegation believed that the sanctions envisaged in cases of threats to and breaches of international peace could not be used as a means of settling international disputes. Because of their profound implications and extensive ramifications, which could have a negative impact on third States, China maintained that sanctions should be imposed only with great caution and in accordance with strict criteria, especially the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law. Sanctions should be used only after all peaceful means of dispute settlement had been exhausted. His delegation welcomed the recommendations and findings of the ad hoc expert group established in 1998, which should inform the design of a system for determining how preventive and enforcement measures might adversely affect third States and exploring feasible ways of providing international assistance to such States, including the establishment of funds and standing consultative mechanisms. Under the current circumstances, efforts should be made to offset losses suffered by third States through multichannel financial arrangements or economic assistance. The United Nations, which had the primary responsibility for solving that problem, should take measures to assist third States affected by sanctions.

36. On the question of formulating a set of guiding principles for United Nations peacekeeping operations, his delegation endorsed the basic ideas contained in the working paper entitled "Fundamentals of the legal basis for United Nations peacekeeping operations in the context of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United

Nations", submitted by the Russian delegation, and supported an in-depth discussion thereon. It also believed that discussion of peacekeeping issues by other United Nations organs did not preclude the Special Committee's consideration of them from a legal perspective. Peacekeeping operations were an important tool for maintaining international peace and security that had evolved over time and, from any perspective, a review of experiences and lessons learned in that area was beneficial.

37. On the question of the Trusteeship Council and its future, his delegation believed that although the Council had completed its historic mission, there was no urgency in its abolition or change of function. Maintaining its current status would not undermine the functioning of the United Nations, whereas precipitate action could produce unforeseeable problems. Therefore, the question should be considered and properly dealt with in the overall context of reforming the United Nations and strengthening its role.

38. As to the role of the Special Committee, his delegation believed that so long as all sides demonstrated the necessary political will, it could play the role expected of it. All members could, in a spirit of pragmatism and consensus, explore ways of improving the Special Committee's work and enhancing its efficiency. China appreciated the initiatives of some delegations in that regard and would consider them in a constructive and cooperative spirit.

39. **Mr. Lobach** (Russian Federation) praised the results achieved by the Special Committee during the period under consideration; his delegation attached great importance to all aspects of its work and considered it a unique instrument for the development and enhancement of the provisions of the Charter within the framework of the reform of the Organization. Experience showed that, despite the complexity of the issues discussed and the variety of political views expressed, the Special Committee continued to find constructive compromise solutions based on a common interpretation of the generally accepted principles and norms of international law. The question of sanctions remained one of the Special Committee's first priorities. Consideration of the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions had been initiated by the Russian Federation in 1998. Since that time, considerable progress had been made and the original document had been enriched by comments and proposals from other delegations. During the Special Committee's most recent session, his delegation had submitted a revised working paper entitled "Declaration on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation", the first reading of which had been completed by the Special Committee's Working Group. His delegation planned to prepare and submit a second revised version of the draft for a second reading at the next session of the Special Committee. He reiterated his delegation's belief that the General Assembly's adoption of the draft declaration would be useful to the Security Council in the performance of its functions regarding the application of sanctions under the Charter of the United Nations and would facilitate the orderly conduct of international relations.

40. He drew attention to one item on the Special Committee's agenda, namely, strengthening the legal basis for United Nations peacekeeping operations in the context of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations. Consideration of that topic, introduced by the Russian Federation in 1998, remained of interest because of the continuing existence of legal problems and the peacekeeping issues which were as yet unresolved. It was clear that in developing a legal basis for peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee should cooperate closely with the United Nations organs concerned with the practical aspects of those operations and, in particular, with the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. His delegation saw no duplication in the work of the two Special Committees since they dealt with different aspects of peacekeeping, in accordance with their respective mandates, and it hoped to launch further discussion of the issue on the basis of the aforementioned document with the ultimate goal of preparing a declaration on the topic.

41. It was extremely important for the Special Committee to continue its discussion of the question of the implementation of the Charter provisions related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions. In that regard, his delegation supported the proposal to establish a working group of the Sixth Committee to make specific recommendations on the legal, financial and economic measures that could be taken in that area.

42. His delegation believed that the working paper which it had submitted jointly with Belarus in order to strengthen fundamental provisions of the Charter of the

United Nations required further consideration. That document provided a satisfactory starting point for the Special Committee to undertake an in-depth discussion of the legal consequences of the use of force by States without prior authorization from the Security Council, a topic which remained of great interest and which was aimed at clarifying the legal aspects of the use of force without recourse to the Charter of the United Nations.

43. With respect to the Trusteeship Council, his delegation continued to believe that it would be inappropriate to abolish it or to change its current function. It also considered that the Special Committee should continue to work according to its present format and rejected the proposal to reduce the duration of its next regular session. Lastly, his delegation welcomed the measures taken by the Secretary-General to eliminate the backlog in the publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and considered that that work deserved greater support in the future.

44. **Mr. Ri** Song Hyon (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the main obstacles to strengthening the role of the Organization were high-handedness and unilateralism, which went against the principle of sovereign equality of Member States embodied in the Charter of the United Nations. It was also important to democratize the United Nations, and to that end it was essential to give more power to the General Assembly, without losing sight of the need to reform the Security Council by giving adequate representation to developing countries.

45. Consideration of the issue of United Nations sanctions should be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter. Not only did sanctions not help achieve a just settlement of disputes, they also had severe economic and humanitarian consequences for both the target countries and neighbouring countries and, worse still, were in many cases misused for political purposes by certain countries. Sanctions must be the last resort and, when they were imposed, their objective, the target country and their duration should be clearly defined. In order to address the issue properly, more power should be given to the General Assembly, and Security Council resolutions establishing sanctions should be subject to approval by the Assembly.

46. In conjunction with the issue of United Nations sanctions, consideration should be given to all forms of intrusive and illegal coercive measures, including sanctions, that individual countries imposed unilaterally on others outside the United Nations framework, in a serious violation of the sovereignty of developing countries. In the case of his country, the unilateral sanctions imposed by a super-Power had been in effect for over half a century, causing immeasurable loss and damage while also restricting the nation's independent development.

47. Another challenge to the United Nations and its Charter was the "United Nations Command" still present in south Korea, the "Command" being an entity that had nothing to do with the United Nations by virtue of the circumstances leading to its establishment, its purpose and its methods of operation. The United Nations had no awareness of what was done by the "Command", which continued to misuse the United Nations flag and name and regarded the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as its rival, aggravating the division and hindering brotherly cooperation and exchange between the north and south of Korea. In essence, the "United Nations Command" in south Korea was the United States military. In the past year alone, the United States had hampered the work being done to reconnect the railroads passing through the demilitarized zone between the north and south of Korea by arrogating to itself the jurisdiction of the United Nations Command over the zone. The United Nations Secretariat and Member States should give proper attention to such an abnormal state of affairs and take steps to prevent the United Nations name and flag from being unilaterally misused.

48. **Ms. Tugral** (Turkey) said that implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations concerning assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions was a topic of utmost importance, especially for her country, which, as a third State, had suffered considerably from the impact of sanctions. The deliberations on the matter should be concluded without further delay and a functional mechanism established to help third States affected by sanctions. Notwithstanding the results achieved thus far, accounts of which were given in the various reports of the Secretary-General, starting with document A/53/312 up to the most recent report, and despite the urgency of the matter, it had still not been systematically dealt with in the Special Committee. An

in-depth discussion of the issue would make it possible to find ways of guaranteeing effective sanctions while at the same time reducing their adverse effects on third States. The establishment of a working group on the topic would help streamline the Special Committee's work on it.

49. The responsibility of the Security Council to act without delay on applications by States under Article 50 of the Charter and to address the hardships incurred by third States should also be underscored. The text submitted by the Russian Federation entitled "Declaration on the basic conditions and standard criteria for the introduction of sanctions and other coercive measures and their implementation" made reference to the non-permissibility of a situation in which the consequences of the introduction of sanctions would inflict considerable material and financial harm on third States.

50. Regarding the peaceful settlement of disputes, her delegation welcomed the joint proposal on dispute prevention and settlement submitted by Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom. As a general approach, recourse to dispute settlement mechanisms required the consent of the parties to the dispute.

51. The Secretary-General had made commendable efforts to reduce the backlog in the publication of the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* and had produced a welcome report on the matter (A/58/347). Lastly, it should be said that the Special Committee could adopt much more efficient working methods and the duration of its sessions should correspond to the importance of its work.

52. **Mr. Kobayashi** (Japan) said that the most salient indicator of the progress made during the Special Committee's April session was the adoption of the part of the working paper on its working methods submitted by Japan together with the Republic of Korea and Thailand. His delegation hoped that a consensus could be reached on adopting the paper as a whole at the next session of the Special Committee and that the Sixth Committee would continue to give priority to the item, as it had done at the previous session.

53. With regard to the peaceful settlement of disputes, at the Special Committee's April session several delegations had emphasized the importance of judicial settlement of disputes and stressed the important role of the International Court of Justice as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, views shared by Japan, especially as to the need of ensuring that the Court had adequate resources.

54. Both the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* were important publications for preserving the institutional memory of the Organization, and therefore Japan welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to reduce the publication backlog and explore alternative working methods, as described in his report (A/58/347). Creative approaches, including the use of information technology, should be pursued, while maintaining financial discipline.

55. **Mr. Mustafa** (Sudan), citing former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali, observed that the existing sanctions regime was blind, because it did not distinguish between peoples or between the States targeted by sanctions and any third countries that might suffer equally from their consequences. Sudan was enormously concerned over the system, which in its current form did not allow sanctions to achieve their objectives, and it therefore called for improving the Security Council's working methods by limiting the scope of sanctions and setting a time limit on them, in order to avoid more serious hardships for the people affected. Experience, and various studies done by scientific and research institutions, showed that sanctions harmed not only the State on which they were imposed but also third countries and their people, and thus it was necessary to give careful thought to the humanitarian, economic and social consequences of imposing them. The Security Council had to be reformed by expanding both its permanent and non-permanent membership in order to achieve a democratic, egalitarian and fair way of functioning. Otherwise, the sanctions regime would be unjustified and would serve only as an instrument of political pressure.

56. The *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* were very important for the institutional memory of the Organization and the progressive development of international law, and should continue being published and translated into the various official languages.

57. **Mr. Díaz-Paniagua** (Costa Rica) asked the Secretary of the Committee, with reference to paragraph 10 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/58/347) concerning the *Repertory* and *Repertoire*, what the

prospects were for academic institutions to collaborate in continuing to publish them and why academic institutions had declined to take over publication.

58. **Mr. Mikulka** (Secretary of the Committee) said that he would answer the question raised by the representative of Costa Rica at the next meeting, once he had consulted on the question.

**Agenda item 148: Progressive development of the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order**

59. **Ms. Ramos Rodriguez** (Cuba) recalled that in its resolution 3201 (S-VI), of 1 May 1974, entitled "Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order", the General Assembly had proclaimed its determination to work urgently for the establishment of a new international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, independence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems which would correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations. However, the prospects of making progress in that regard were now non-existent. The current economic order had led to the underdevelopment of 75 per cent of the world's population; consequently, there was an urgent need to institute far-reaching changes and develop principles and norms to govern a new order based on justice, access to the benefits of globalization and equity at the global level. In its resolution 46/52, the General Assembly had decided to establish a working group of the Sixth Committee to develop the principles and norms of international law relating to the new international economic order. Although the Committee had, at the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, decided that the group should recommence its consideration of the legal aspects of international economic relations at its fifty-first session, the issue had been constantly deferred. The Sixth Committee must return to the issue, which was inextricably linked to the maintenance of peace and the prevention and resolution of disputes. Economic and social development contributed directly to peace, since there could be no peace without development.

60. The fundamental objective of the United Nations was, in addition to the maintenance of international peace and security, to free the world from extreme poverty and underdevelopment; to that end, it was essential to establish relationships based on the principles and values enshrined in the Charter. A more equitable, inclusive and fair international economic order must be based on such principles as solidarity, equal access to the benefits of the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, the reaffirmation and full realization of the right to development, the full realization of the right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their wealth and natural resources, the realization of the principles of obtaining common benefits and of common but differentiated responsibilities of developing and industrialized countries, and the establishment or reform of transparent, democratic, fair and responsible international financial institutions. As the Millennium Declaration stated, globalization must be a positive force for all the world's people to ensure that its benefits and costs were distributed evenly. To that end, there was a need for an open and transparent, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.

61. Any principles and norms adopted in the context of the establishment of a fair and equitable international economic order must expressly prohibit the implementation of unilateral measures by some States against others. Such unilateral actions contravened international law and the Charter of the United Nations, hampered trade and financial relations between States and hindered the economic and social development of the affected countries. A new international economic order of that kind would not allow the implementation of extra-territorial legislation, such as the Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts, which violated the sovereignty of third States and limited trade between those countries and their private companies and Cuba. The strict economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba more than 14 years previously had caused it enormous human and economic damage. In addition, the inclusion of medicines and foodstuffs in the embargo constituted a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. The limited purchases of foodstuffs that Cuba was allowed to make in the United States, under restrictive and discriminatory conditions that violated the freedoms of trade and navigation, did not constitute

any softening of the embargo, but rather served to confirm its illegal and inhuman nature.

62. In addition to retaining the issue on the Sixth Committee's programme of work, a discussion leading to action must take place at the next session. Such an important and urgent issue could not merely be consigned to triennial formal consideration without practical consequences. It was to be hoped that the decision adopted at the current session would reflect that position. Furthermore, a decision could be taken on various courses of action to follow up on the issue, such as calling on Member States and international organizations to submit their proposals and comments on the most suitable procedure for the codification and gradual development of the principles and norms of international law related to a more equitable and sustainable international economic order.

**Agenda item 159: Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly** (A/C.6/58/L.6)

*Draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.6: Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly*

63. **Mr. Isong** (Nigeria) said that his Government supported the objectives of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, namely the promotion, advancement and consolidation of sustainable development worldwide, a better understanding and the implementation and dissemination of the norms and guidelines applicable to multiparty pluralism and democratic practices, the strengthening of national capacity to develop a wide range of democratic instruments with a view to favouring exchanges between all those involved in electoral processes in the context of democratic institution-building, increasing knowledge of and strengthening of electoral processes, the promotion of transparency, professionalism and efficiency in electoral processes in the context of democratic development. The Institute should be commended for its efforts to select programmes that focused on intersectoral issues such as democracy and conflict management, the relationship between democratization, sustainable development and poverty eradication, the right to democracy as a human right and capacity-building activities in selected countries. The Institute had carried out important work in many countries, in particular those emerging from long periods of military rule, such as Nigeria. For those reasons, his delegation fully supported the draft resolution and urged other delegations to do the same.

64. **Ms. Simonsson** (Sweden) said that the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India and Uganda had joined the list of sponsors.

65. **Mr. Kanu** (Sierra Leone) expressed his willingness to accept the consensus on the issue and said that Sierra Leone would be pleased to join the list of sponsors.

66. *Draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.6 was adopted.*

**Agenda item 162: Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Community in the General Assembly** (A/C.6/58/L.5)

*Draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.5: Observer status for the Eurasian Economic Community in the General Assembly*

67. **The Chairman** informed the Committee that Ukraine had joined the list of sponsors.

68. **Mr. Isong** (Nigeria), referring to agenda items 162, 163 and 164, said that he fully supported the requests for observer status in the General Assembly submitted by the Eurasian Economic Community, the GUUAM and the East African Community because, as pointed out by the heads of State and Government during the general debate, the United Nations could carry out its pivotal role only with the assistance of regional and subregional organizations and bodies.

69. **Mr. Kanu** (Sierra Leone) said that, in his view, insufficient information had been provided about the Eurasian Economic Community. He was therefore unable to join the consensus on the draft resolution.

70. **The Chairman** asked whether Sierra Leone objected to the Committee taking action on the draft resolution.

71. **Mr. Kanu** (Sierra Leone) said that, while he did not wish to hold up the Committee's work, he would be grateful if it could defer taking action on the draft resolution until a later date. If not, however, the Committee should proceed to take any appropriate action as long as it was placed on record that Sierra Leone had not participated in the decision.

72. **The Chairman** took note of the comments made by the representative of Sierra Leone. He understood that the representative of Sierra Leone had no objection

to the Committee taking action on draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.5 and took it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.

73. *It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 163: Observer status for the GUAM in the General Assembly** (A/58/231 and A/C.6/58/L.4)

74. **Mr. Siamashvili** (Georgia) said that Israel, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America had joined the list of sponsors.

75. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.4 without a vote.

76. *It was so decided.*

**Agenda item 164: Observer status for the East African Community in the General Assembly** (A/58/232 and A/C.6/58/L.3)

77. **Ms. Bahemuka** (Kenya) said that, as a co-sponsor of draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.3, her delegation supported the views expressed in the Sixth Committee on 6 October 2003 by the Permanent Representatives of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The East African Community was a regional intergovernmental organization comprising Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda and had been established by a treaty signed on 30 November 1999 with the aim of achieving the economic, social, cultural and political integration of the member States. Its main objectives were to develop and adopt an East African trade regime; cooperate in trade liberalization and development; strengthen and consolidate cooperation with a view to achieving equitable development among the member States and uplifting the living standards and quality of life of their people; promote the sustainable use of the region's natural resources and effective protection of its environment; promote peace, security and good-neighbourliness in the region; and enhance the role of women in development.

78. In forming the Community, the three countries had been urged on by the realization that only through solidarity could they address the common problems that continued to afflict their citizens. Their leaders had concluded that the economic backwardness and political instability prevalent in the Great Lakes region posed a serious threat to international peace and security and that lasting solutions had to be found. The framework of cooperation and complementarity provided by the Treaty establishing the East African Community offered the best forum for tackling those problems. Since its rebirth in 1999, the Community had striven to work towards the achievement of its goals by forging cooperation in such areas as trade liberalization, human resource development, agriculture and food security, health services and political and legal matters. Those objectives were consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and with the aims of the African Union and other regional organizations to which member States of the Community belonged. In addition, the Treaty establishing the Community stressed the need to forge links with like-minded regional and global organizations as a prerequisite for achieving not only regional but also global unity. In that sense, the Community would help to achieve the objectives of the Organization by relating its work to global projects and programmes and seeking support from the United Nations and its agencies.

79. No country or region could exist in a vacuum. All problems and needs were interrelated and must be addressed from a common perspective. States members of the Community had realized that only by cooperating with regional and global organizations and agencies could global economic, political, humanitarian, social and security problems be resolved. Also, the Community was keen to learn from the experience of other regional integration institutions and, accordingly, had laid the groundwork for developing strategic partnerships with organizations such as the African Union, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and others, such as the African Development Bank (ADB), the Agence française de développement, the European Union, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Swedish International Development Agency. The Community firmly believed that forging links with the United Nations would bolster its activities and effectively speed up the achievement of its objectives. She trusted that the United Nations, which, over the years had stressed the need to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation and had granted observer status to many regional and subregional organizations, would respond positively to the request formulated by the members of the East African Community.

80. **Mr. Tidjani** (Cameroon) reaffirmed his country's support for the strengthening of relations among States belonging to the same region and for cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations as provided for in the relevant resolutions. In an increasingly interdependent world facing numerous challenges, cooperation had become indispensable for resolving common problems. As an intergovernmental organization aimed at strengthening cooperation among its members, particularly in political, economic, social and judicial matters and at managing together the problems specific to its subregion, the East African Community was pursuing objectives of ongoing concern to the United Nations. Cameroon believed that the Community fully met the requirements set out in General Assembly resolution 46/426 of 9 December 1994 and was convinced that granting it observer status would help to bolster its links with the United Nations and further enable it to become an effective partner for United Nations activities in its subregion. Accordingly, Cameroon supported the request of Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda and wished to join the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.3.

81. **Ms. Katungye** (Uganda) said that, in addition to Cameroon, Djibouti, Lesotho, South Africa and Ukraine had joined the list of co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.3.

82. **Mr. Kanu** (Sierra Leone) said he believed that the East African Community would contribute to the economic and political development of that part of the African continent and expressed Sierra Leone's wish to join the co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.3.

83. **The Chairman** said he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.6/58/L.3 without a vote.

84. *It was so decided.*

*The meeting rose at 1 p.m.*